

## New Jersey World War II Commission

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Nina Wells, Secretary of State  
Major General Glenn K. Rieth  
COL (Ret) Stephen G. Abel

\* Deceased



### Special Thanks

- Rutgers, The State University—Sandra Stewart, Director of Rutgers Oral History Department and Dr. G. Kurt Piehler.
- T6 Flyover—American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New Jersey
- County of Mercer—TRADE buses
- Mercer County Park Commission— Golf Carts
- Coin Design—Hannah Olsen
- Boy Scout Troop 33, West Trenton, New Jersey
- Girl Scout Troop 30934, Voorhees, New Jersey
- Lady Victory - 50th IBCT Panels— June Pennock

And everyone whose efforts contributed to today's dedication ceremony and tribute to "America's Greatest Generation."

# **New Jersey World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremony**



**Veterans Day**

**November 11, 2008**

**The Statehouse Plaza  
Trenton, New Jersey**

**JON S. CORZINE**  
Governor  
State of New Jersey

**GLENN K. RIETH**  
Major General  
The Adjutant General



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX 001  
TRENTON  
08625  
(609) 292-6000

November 11, 2008

Dear Veterans:

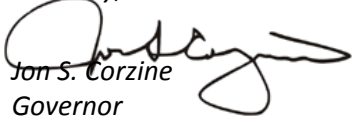
*Today we dedicate this magnificent Memorial to the thousands of brave men and women who fought for our nation during World War II, sacrificing so much to preserve our liberty both on the fields of battle and on the home front. In so doing, we fulfill our solemn promise to those veterans and their families to create a lasting tribute to their service. That service, long honored by the freedom this nation cherishes so dearly, is now recognized by an appropriate monument in our state.*

*It is especially fitting that we hold this ceremony on Veterans Day, recognizing service members living and dead who safeguarded this nation so our children and grandchildren can live in freedom. With this dedication, we bequeath to those future generations the legacy of "the Greatest Generation"—that love of country and community that sustains and enhances us through the years.*

*This is a proud day for New Jersey, made all the more significant by the presence of so many who lived through that extraordinary time. Thank you for your valor and your example.*

*Semper Fi and God Bless.*

Sincerely,

  
Jon S. Corzine  
Governor

## ***The New Jersey World War II Memorial***

*This World War II Memorial unfolds around the overall theme of "Victory", with three, core Ideas analogous to the World War II Generation: Service, Duty and Sacrifice.*

*The central element, named "Lady Victory", symbolically encompasses the greatness of this effort and the grace and courage of the World War II Generation.*



*Encircling Lady Victory are six Service Markers and two arcing story walls. Adorning each Service Marker is a seal representing the six branches of the military and their respective New Jersey Medal of Honor recipients.*

*The Story Walls strive to communicate the war effort, both on the home front and the front lines. New Jersey's contributions are remembered through the latest technology, capturing stories told by local veterans for future generations.*

*Located along an outer circle are four bas reliefs, depicting battle scenes from both the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters. A Soldier in an active combat pose and a Lone Battlefield Marker also are highlighted in the Memorial.*

# New Jersey's Contributions to World War II



*The State of New Jersey served as a vital link between the home front and victory during World War II. Over a half million men and women from the Garden State served in the US Military.*

*They distinguished themselves in North Africa, Europe and the Pacific. Over thirty thousand gave the ultimate sacrifice protecting our liberty. The heroism of seventeen residents including, John Basilone, Francis Burke, Stephen Gregg and Thomas McGuire was recognized with the Congressional Medal of Honor.*

*Throughout New Jersey, military installations supported the war effort. Fort Dix processed over one million recruits. Camp Kilmer was the embarkation point for two million soldiers to Europe. Navy Depots in Bayonne and Earle loaded cargo and ammunition for our ships. Picatinny Arsenal was the sole large munitions manufacturer in the country and Fort Monmouth was the home of the Signal Corps.*



*Essex Troop, part of the New Jersey Army National Guard, has the distinction of being the first Calvary Unit to reach Europe. From there they distinguished themselves on D-Day at Omaha Beach, throughout Europe and in the Pacific.*

*On the home front, industry supporting the war effort flourished in the Garden State. Navy "Wildcats" and "Avengers" were produced at plants in Linden and Trenton making New Jersey a leading aircraft producer. The State was also noted for its shipyards in Camden, Newark and Kearny producing many different classes, including the battleship USS South Dakota and the cruiser USS Atlanta both of renown in the Pacific theater.*

*Other contributions from private industry included c-rations from Campbell's Soup,*



*Military overcoats and jackets produced in Newark and the scientific achievements at DuPont, just to name a few of multitude of New Jersey companies supporting the effort.*

*From Highpoint to Cape May, from Trenton to Jersey City, the citizens of New Jersey, both abroad and on the home front, epitomized what it means to be an American.*



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
POST OFFICE BOX 340  
TRENTON NEW JERSEY 08625-0340

JON S. CORZINE  
Governor  
Commander-in-Chief

☆☆  
GLENN K. RIETH  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

November 11, 2008

Dear Veterans:

*I am humbled and honored to be part of this day. To stand in the midst of so many American heroes is nothing short of breathtaking. We live in a land of freedom because of the brave men and women who have and continue to serve. Every one of you who served our nation during WWII epitomizes those ideals. All of you have earned the right to be known collectively as "The Greatest Generation."*

*President Roosevelt's words rang true in 1941 and remain an indelible part of our nation's history: "Yesterday December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked." Once again we are a country that has been attacked. Today's young men and women have drawn on the same inner fiber that enabled the WW II American Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine to stand up and honor our nation with their service.*

*You have taught all of us who continue to wear the uniform about humility, perseverance, and the love of our nation. I stand beside you today in admiration of all that you have accomplished throughout your lives. Each of you is an American Hero.*

With Regards,

*Glenn K. Rieth*  
GLENN K. RIETH

Major General, NJARNG  
The Adjutant General



**New Jersey World War II Memorial  
Dedication Ceremony**

**1940's Era Patriotic Musical Renditions**

*The Capital Singers of Trenton  
63<sup>rd</sup> Army Band*

**American Legion—VFW Tribute to “The Greatest Generation”**

**World War II Vintage Flyover** .....T-6 “Texan”

**Opening Remarks** ..... Jack McGreevey  
*Chair, NJ WWII Commission  
US Marine Corps, WWII*

**Invocation** ..... Arthur Seltzer  
*4th Signal Battalion, US Army, WWII*

**Raising of the Service Colors** ..... Colors are being raised  
by WWII Veterans and Current  
Members from each Service

**Raising of the National and State Standards**

**Pledge of Allegiance** ..... Anna M. Hoffman  
*Women’s Army Corps, WWII  
George Watson Sr.  
366<sup>th</sup> Air Service Group, US Army Air Corps, WWII*

**National Anthem** ..... Donald Mulry  
*94th Infantry Division, US Army, WWII*

**Welcoming Remarks** ..... Major General Glenn K. Rieth  
*The Adjutant General*

**Keynote Speakers**

*Jon S. Corzine  
Governor, State of New Jersey*

*Senator Frank R. Lautenberg  
US Army Signal Corps, WWII*

**New Jersey World War II Memorial  
Dedication Ceremony**

**Keynote Speakers (cont’d)**

*Governor Brendan T. Byrne  
15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, US Army Air Corps, WWII*

*Dr. Leslie Hayling  
Tuskegee Airman, US Army Air Corps, WWII*

*Leonard Lomell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion, US Army, WWII*

**Official Dedication of the World War II Memorial**

**The Unveiling of Lady Victory**

**Presentation of Time Capsule Envelope** ..... Frank Cuccia  
*13th Airborne Division, US Army, WWII*

**Governor’s Presentation** ..... Governor Jon S. Corzine

**Rendering of Military Honors**

*“To the Fallen”* ..... The Capital Singers of Trenton

*Two Bell Ceremony* ..... Vito Tango  
*US Navy, WWII*

*Rifle Salute* ..... New Jersey Army National Guard

*Echo Taps* ..... 63<sup>rd</sup> Army Band

**Benediction** ..... Jim Hall  
*10th Armored Division, US Army, WWII*

**“God Bless America”** ..... William Mead  
*3rd Marine Division, US Marine Corps, Vietnam Veteran*

**Air National Guard Flyover**

*F-16 Fighting Falcon, 177<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing*